

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	G protein-coupled receptor 52 (GPR52)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest agonizing GPR52 could help treat schizophrenia, which is highly expressed in brain regions associated with disease pathology. Chemical synthesis and testing of benzothiophene-benzamide analogs in human GPR52 ⁺ hamster cells identified a lead compound that agonized GPR52 at a low nanomolar EC ₅₀ value. In normal mice, the compound showed good pharmacokinetics and brain penetrance. In mice, the compound decreased methamphetamine-induced psychotic behavior compared with vehicle without also causing catalepsy. Next steps could include testing the lead GPR52 agonist in other models of schizophrenia.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Setoh, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 2, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm5002919 Contact: Masaki Setoh, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Kanagawa, Japan e-mail: masaki.setoh@takeda.com
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